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# National Wild Horse & Burro News

U.S. Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management

## Finding Rest, Relaxation in Penn.

By Amy J. Nesselrodt, DVM  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service

It was a beautiful Spring morning. I hugged and kissed my family good bye, threw my bags in the pickup and headed down the Pennsylvania Turnpike. I was on my way to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) rest facility at Maple Lane Stables in Washington, Penn.

I was excited about the opportunity to work with the Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) Program. Recently, the BLM had signed a cooperative agreement with my organization, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services to get more veterinary involve-

ment with the WH&B Program. When I heard about the agreement, I eagerly volunteered to be involved. I am a horse and donkey enthusiast and was anxious to learn more about them and this wonderful program, and to help in anyway I could. Although I had been at a BLM meeting earlier in the year, this would be my first chance to actually work with the BLM.

A load of horses and burros were on their way from the West to an adoption in Vermont. Transportation is stressful on all animals. There are strange noises, vibrations, smells and unusual surroundings. The term "shipping fever" was coined to describe a number of infectious respiratory conditions that animals (horses, donkeys, cattle,

**Continued on page 8**



*The Bureau of Land Management rests wild horses and burros in southcentral Pennsylvania before continuing east to an adoption event.*

The Bureau of Land Management, (BLM), an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, is entrusted with administering 264 million acres of public lands located primarily in the 12 Western States, including Alaska. The agency manages an additional 300 million acres of subsurface mineral estate located throughout the country.

The BLM manages public lands and their vast array of resources to benefit both current and future generations. One of the BLM's legislative responsibilities is to manage and preserve the wild horse and burro as a "living symbol" of the Old West. The BLM gathers excess wild horses and burros from the western range and offers them for adoption. The Adopt-A-Horse or Burro Program helps to maintain an ecological balance between wild horses and burros, native wildlife and domestic animals grazing on western public lands.

**Public Affairs Group Manager:**

*Celia Boddington,*  
BLM  
Washington Office

**Editors:**

*Mary O. Knapp,*  
BLM  
Washington Office Public Affairs

**Layout and Design:**

*Todd Hampson,*  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Business Center

**Send correspondence to:**

Department of the Interior,  
Bureau of Land Management,  
1849 C St, NW, MS-LS 406 (Knapp),  
Washington, D.C. 20240;

**or via e-mail to:**

Mary\_Knapp@blm.gov;

**or call:** (202) 452.5176

[www.blm.gov/whb](http://www.blm.gov/whb)

## Lee Delaney



**Group Manager,**  
*The Wild Horse and Burro Program*

The time is really slipping by — it is summer already! I hope you are all fully enjoying your adopted wild horse or burro.

As you may recall, we conducted a survey recently to determine what you were interested in hearing about. Compliance was among the top vote getters. So, I will provide a short summary of my views on compliance.

Prior to issuing title, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is required to conduct telephone calls and on-site visits to ensure adopted wild horses and burros are receiving humane care and treatment. The BLM does not just rely on regularly scheduled compliance visits to determine if a problem exists. We receive calls from concerned citizens and it is our policy to respond to 100 percent of the calls and take appropriate actions if necessary.

Some view the compliance checks as an enforcement action. I look at them as the BLM helping to ensure a successful adoption. Our goal is to help the adopter so that they can receive title to the animal.

When conducting an on-site compliance check, the BLM employee will note any problems and advise the adopter on what corrective actions should be taken and when. Many times the problems are simply the result of inexperience. The BLM's employees will gladly provide information to the adopter to ensure proper treatment of the animal or proper facility maintenance. The key is that the adopter does not delay in correcting the problem. Failure by an

adopter to follow through can, and will, result in the BLM repossessing the animal, and, depending on the severity of the problem, the BLM may issue citations to the adopter.

There are times when law enforcement actions are definitely appropriate. For example, when severe health or facility problems exist and the BLM employee feels that it is in the adopted animal's best interest, the BLM would immediately repossess the animal and possibly issue a criminal citation to the adopter. When an adopter places an animal in danger, we must do what we feel is best for the animal. Examples of severe problems include: abusive treatment, lack of treatment, false representation of the facility, etc. Frankly, these cases are few and far between, but they do happen.

I want to emphasize that we perform compliance inspections to ensure humane care and treatment for the adopted animals. If an adopter is unsure about proper treatment or is experiencing a problem, help is just a telephone call away. Bureau employees and volunteers are ready to assist in any way possible to ensure a successful adoption.

The BLM is also in the process of developing a nationwide mentor program with volunteer organizations and individuals. At adoption events, the BLM will inform adopters of the mentor program so that adopters may contact mentors for advice and assistance. We are very excited about the program because it will broaden our ability to help adopters and it will provide a peer group for interaction on a multitude of issues relative to adopting wild horses and burros

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*My "mustang" equine partner is becoming a very good friend and companion. As he matures he's gotten so much better in all areas. They train differently than other horses but they are awesome horses.*

**—Ken Sanders, Calif.**



# Carolina Classic Horse Expo Features Mustangs & Burros

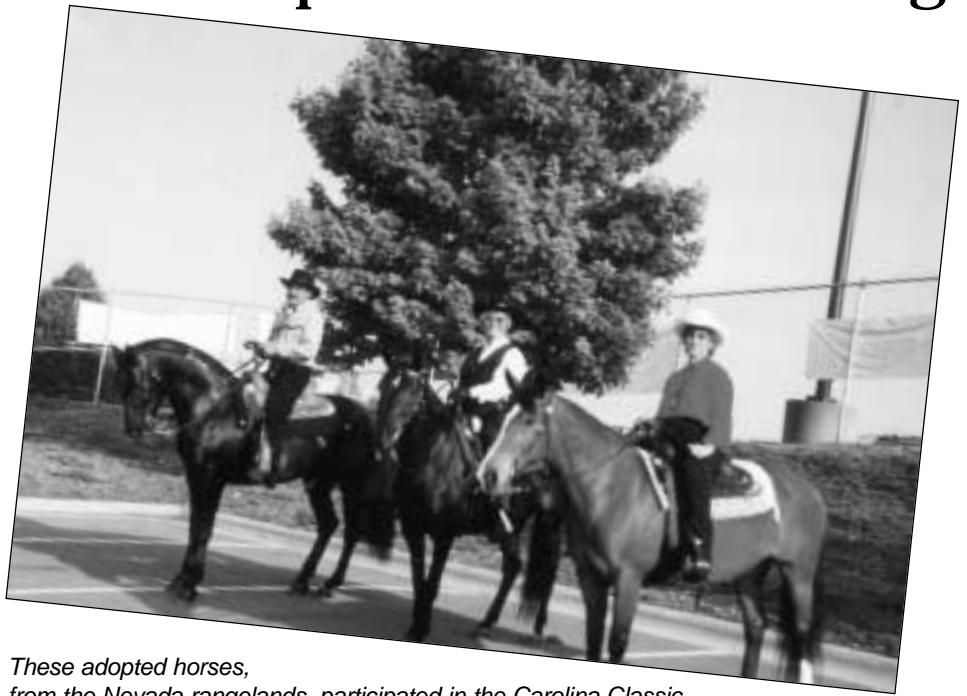
By Jinx Fox, Springfield, Virginia

Horse fairs and expos such as Equitana in Kentucky, Equine Affaire in Massachusetts and Ohio, World Horse Expo in Maryland, and the Midwest Horse Fair in Wisconsin are an equestrian's dream. These events all offer Eastern equestrians a look at the latest in everything equine, from clothing and trailers to training demonstrations by nationally renowned trainers.

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Eastern States Office participates in many of these events by manning a booth and displaying an exhibit. Our goal is to educate people about wild horses and burros. Whenever possible, we will bring our BLM mascots and keep them in a stall or two located next to our booth. When we need to, we ask local adopters to bring and display their animals instead. The stalls are always a knockout with the crowds, many of whom have never touched or seen a mustang or burro up close. People are quite impressed with our well-behaved animals.

This May, Eastern States participated for the first time in a newer regional equine expo, the Carolina Classic Horse Expo, in Winston-Salem, N.C. The event, which was extended to three days this spring, gathered equestrians and horse lovers from Virginia to the Carolinas, and even as far away as Florida. Top trainers gave clinics during the event, and educational seminars covered topics from health care to purchasing a new trailer.

BLM's volunteers played a crucial role representing our "living legends" at the Carolina Classic. Since Eastern States had a heavy spring adoption and special event schedule, we could not bring a BLM mascot to North Carolina. Volunteers Mikey Porter and Judy Henderson of Tennessee, and Joey Burnett of North Carolina, all pitched in and brought their exceptionally trained horses to the event. Along with Sheliah



*These adopted horses, from the Nevada rangelands, participated in the Carolina Classic. (L-R) Joey Burnett on Satriani, Mikey Porter on Zima and Judy Henderson on Carmilla.*

Strickland of the North Carolina Wild Horse Association, these volunteers logged countless hours in the BLM booth talking with the public, as well as participating in the evening Parade of Breeds.

All three volunteer mustangs came from Nevada. Henderson's mare, Carmilla, patiently stood in our booth stall as inquisitive potential adopters admired her calm and gentle nature. More feisty by nature, Porter's black mare, Zima, dazzled all with her musical reining or "Western dressage" performance during Saturday's evening show. And the sleeper of the Expo, Burnett's black stud, Satriani, intrigued all who saw him. The most common comment we heard when people saw Satriani, a 15.2 hand refined and well-mannered stud, was "Is that really a mustang?" Satriani was Burnett's first horse, and Burnett gentled him using trainer John Lyons' methods. When John Lyons saw Burnett and Satriani at the Expo, he was so impressed with the well-behaved stallion that he asked Burnett to ride in the arena while he gave a clinic.

Congratulations and many thanks to all our great volunteers for making this an exceptional event!

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*Thank you for the program in its entirety. I hope to be a participant in the future.*

**—John Harp, Calif.**

*This is a wonderful newsletter, makes me feel more a part of a "family" of special people caring for very special horses.*

**—Dennis & Rita Winter, Wyo.**

*Adopting a pair of weanlings is the most rewarding contribution I've ever done for animal rights. Thank you!*

**—Stephanie Bruce (Berta), Calif.**



# Too Lazy to Work, Too Nervous to Steal

By Janet Nordin, Reno, Nevada

When you were a little kid did you ever have a vision of what you wanted to be when you grew up? Cliff Heaverne did. He wanted to fly a helicopter. Not a lot of people can say they got to be what they always dreamed about when they were little.

Heaverne is one of a handful of skilled helicopter pilots the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) contracts with to census and gather wild horses and burros from the public rangelands. When Heaverne was asked what made him want to be a helicopter pilot he said, "Too lazy to work and too nervous to steal." But that's not quite accurate. Heaverne works hard at what he does and is very experienced. On the road approximately 8 months out of the year, Heaverne's dream is time-consuming and demanding. He has gathered more than 40,000 wild horses and burros for the BLM and has logged over 30,000 hours flying his helicopter.

Heaverne, now 57 years old, grew up in rural Nevada where the husband of his elementary school teacher flew him to school everyday—not a bad mode of transportation when you think about it. He was reared on a ranch with all the plusses and minuses. Heaverne said, "Always liked horses, always had horses."

As a U.S. Army paratrooper in the 1960s, Heaverne learned how to jump, but not fly. He was out of the Armed Services for only one year when the Army offered him the opportunity to learn to fly. That was enough for Heaverne. He re-upped and trained to fly both fixed-wing airplanes and helicopters. Heaverne flew helicopters in Vietnam, entering enemy territory to drop off and pick up front-line troops.

Heaverne resigned from military service in 1973 and flew a helicopter during the construction of the Alaskan Pipe Line. After a five-year stint, he went to work

for Comstock Copters and crop dusted. He began working with the BLM in Nevada's Winnemucca Field Office during some of their first wild horse and burro gathers.

In 1980, Heaverne started his own business, High Desert Helicopters. He began contract work with the BLM's California Desert District Office gathering burros.

Heaverne's helicopter is a tool. "I'm just a little man in a big eagle," he said. That tool carries a big price tag, about \$130,000 each for a Bell 47 helicopter. There is also the cost of high-risk insurance because you have to fly so close to the ground. The BLM pays by the number of horses or burros captured, so there is a lot of pressure on the pilot. "Everybody gets paid by what the pilot does. If the pilot has trouble capturing the animals, a gather takes longer and sometimes the profit margin is not what it needs to be," Heaverne said.

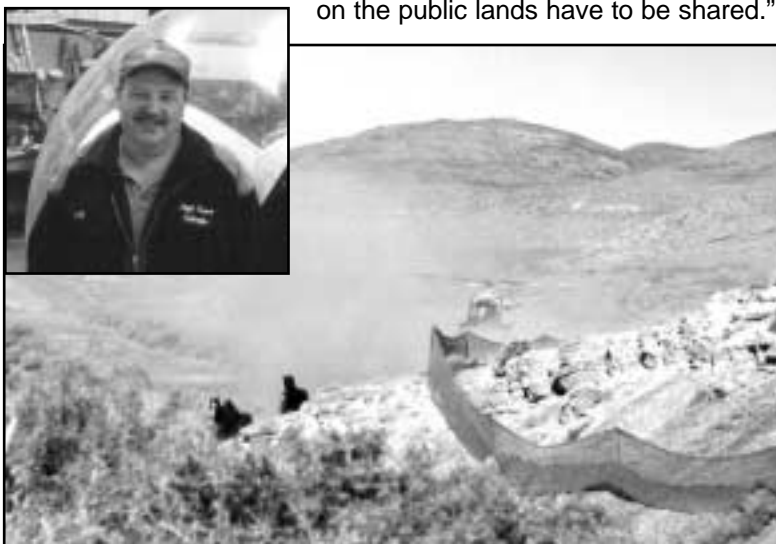
The BLM requires wild horse and burro gathers be conducted in the safest and most humane manner possible. The distance the animals travel is limited, as well as the speed in which they are brought into the trap. At the same time, the BLM has regulations to ensure the safety of the pilot. While many people can fly a helicopter, few are experienced in flying a helicopter while guiding wild horses and burros. It takes experience to know when to push the animals and when to back off. More importantly, the pilot must read the lead animal's behavior from 30 feet in the air and anticipate how that animal is going to react. If the

band is allowed to spill from the opening of the trap, it is difficult to regroup them.

Gathers begin about an hour after first light. Flying prior to that is too difficult because of the shadows cast by the morning sun. Helicopter gathers end around mid-afternoon, or when the heat of the day becomes too intense for the animals and the pilot. An average gather brings in about 100 animals per day. That allows enough time for the ground crew to work the animals before sunset. Heaverne remembers one of his more memorable gathers which took place in the winter. "You can't imagine how cold 30 degrees below zero is until you're outside at 5:00 a.m. trying to get your helicopter to fire up," he said.

"Over the years, not a lot has changed in the way I fly, but BLM has changed." There are more safety measures, with a lot of checks and balances. BLM treats the animals better than ever, they really care. There is a lot more concern for the well-being of the animal," said Heaverne.

Heaverne enjoys his work. "It's always new, always different and you can see what you've accomplished at the end of the day. The horses never respond the same either. I feel I'm doing something to help the wild horses and burros. Too much of anything is bad. All the wildlife and resources that belong on the public lands have to be shared."



Helicopter pilot Cliff Heaverne at home in his Carson City, Nev., hangar, and in the air guiding wild horses into a trap on the Flanigan Herd Management Area gather.



# A Heartfelt Farewell to Tom Huffman

By Joe Stratton, Elm Creek, Nebraska

One of Elm Creek's original employees has decided to move on to a higher calling. The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Wild Horse and Burro Facility at Elm Creek, open since August 1994, will soon bid farewell to Tom Huffman.

For those of you who don't know, Huffman grew up in Nebraska's Sandhills and still owns the ranch his grandfather worked on for many years. Huffman is well-known to those who live in the area and to those who have visited Elm Creek. Before becoming a wrangler at the facility, the Kansas State graduate worked as an insurance salesman, a trucker, and of course, a rancher.

In just six years time at Elm Creek Huffman has earned the reputation of being an exemplary employee. Being physically located far from other BLM field offices hasn't stopped him from becoming well-liked by others in the Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) Program. Huffman has helped Eastern States host adoptions and he has helped Wyoming and California with several wild horse gathers. To say that

the WH&B Program and the Elm Creek Facility will miss Huffman is the epitome of an understatement.

Over the last six years, Huffman has adopted several wild horses and burros. His animals have been used as feedlot horses, driving horses, and kids horses. They are good examples of what wild horses can do when trained. Huffman has proudly shared these experiences with his friends, relatives and acquaintances, and in doing so has convinced several to adopt an animal themselves.

As for his future, Huffman is answering to a higher calling—literally. He is taking a new step in life to become a servant of the Lord. He will be a rural minister for the Kansas-Nebraska Southern Baptist Church. As minister, he will set up Bible study groups, Rodeo/Bible Camps, and assist people who want to learn more about the Lord.

Fortunately for the BLM, Huffman has agreed to stay active in the WH&B Program as a volunteer at the Elm Creek Facility. With a heavy heart the Elm Creek staff and the entire WH&B Program say good-bye. We wish you the very best Tom. You will be missed!



*Wrangler Tom Huffman will turn in his chaps for a minister's robe but will continue to help out at Elm Creek, Nebraska's Wild Horse and Burro Facility as a volunteer.*

## Join us for a Wild, Wild West Weekend in July

July 27-30 will be the wildest weekend ever in Dodge City, Kan.! The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will team up with the Dodge City Country General store to put on a weekend full of activities. The three day event schedule is as follows:

### Thursday, July 27

Preview and adoption information	4–6 pm
Clinton Anderson Clinic	4 pm

cian Clinton Anderson. Anderson's clinic will focus on trouble-free trailering and will demonstrate easy techniques on how to load horses.

### Friday, July 28

Preview and adoption information	9 am–6 pm
Oral Bidding	10 am
Clinton Anderson Clinic	TBA
Clinton Anderson Clinic	TBA

Country General will also host 4-H demonstrations, product information distribution and two concerts featuring Reba McEntire, Sawyer Brown, Mindy McCready and others. The weekend activities are in conjunction with the Dodge City Days and Rodeo.

### Saturday, July 29

Preview and adoption information	9 am–2 pm
Oral Bidding	10 am

For more information or to obtain an application, please call 1-800-237-3642 or visit us at [www.nm.blm.gov](http://www.nm.blm.gov)

The BLM will host not only a two day adoption, but will also provide an opportunity to catch a few tips from clini-



# Training Behind Bars in a Place Called Crabtree

By Faren Revard, Moore, Oklahoma

Rough on the outside, yet gentle on the inside. These words describe both wild horses and inmates at the James Crabtree Correctional Center in Helena, Okla. James Crabtree is a state institution offering a training program that not only educates adopted wild horses, but also educates inmates by providing career experience.

Suzie Salinas, coordinator for the Mustang Program, said the program has helped horses and inmates for the last 10 years. It was initially set up to allow inmates an opportunity to gain hands-on job experience while they are at the correction center. Many inmates complete the program and continue learning by attending equine vo-tech courses offered at the facility.

"A lot of the guys who work with the mustangs become interested in horses and taking the vo-tech courses allows them to gather some book knowledge about horses," said Steve Moore, vo-tech instructor for the Equine

Management Program. "Many of the guys leave the center and begin training horses as a profession."

For the last two years, Morris Lynch has managed the mustang program. Lynch works with the inmates one-on-one when they enter the program until he is confident in their training skills. After working with an inmate Lynch will assign a horse to the inmate who will be responsible for it. This includes taking care of the cleaning, feeding, watering, and tack upkeep.

"I like helping the guys learn," said Lynch. "This program gives them something to look forward to and be responsible for."

In the past 10 years the program has trained about 500 horses with a 99 percent success rate. The cost of training is \$100 per month, with the average training time lasting three months. Only those who have adopted a wild horse from the BLM are eligible to enroll their animal in the mustang program. To enroll your adopted horse, call the James Crabtree Correctional Center at 508-852-3221. There is a waiting list for training, but the average waiting period is less than six months.

For more information on the training program or on pre-approval (to adopt), call the Oklahoma area office at 1-800-237-3642 or go to [www.nm.blm.gov](http://www.nm.blm.gov).



*James Crabtree inmates with two mustangs trained at the facility. The Bureau of Land Management is proud to show off these animals as mascots for the Wild Horse and Burro Program.*

## Wild Horses Go To School in Olive Branch, Miss.

By Lisa Flanagan, Jackson, Mississippi

More than 300 Mississippi 7th graders got a chance recently to make an unusual career discovery. The Olive Branch Middle School students are required to take Career Discovery Classes periodically to introduce them to the different job opportunities that are out there. On March 29, 2000, stu-

dents met a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Public Affairs Specialist and an "honest to goodness" wild horse. Lisa Flanagan and her wild horse, Logan, met with students for almost two hours and they talked about everything from wild horse gathers, to freeze marks to adoptions. For many of the students, it was the first time they had seen a horse up close, not to men-

tion a wild horse. Logan, a perfect gentleman, patiently stood by and allowed students to "ooh and ahh" over him. Some were even brave enough to try petting him. This proved to be an excellent vehicle, not only to talk about wild horses and promote adoptions, but also to educate the students about the BLM and its many programs.



# Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range

Though wild horse herds live in many parts of the western United States, the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range is one of only three ranges in the United States set aside specifically to protect wild and free-roaming horses. The area was officially dedicated as a wild horse range on Nov. 7, 1980. It was dedicated to the memory of Velma B. Johnston, "Wild Horse Annie," and a stone monument was placed in Indian Park commemorating this occasion.

The range is located in Colorado, approximately 10 miles northeast of Grand Junction and 20 miles west of DeBeque, atop the Bookcliffs range. It encompasses 36,113 acres of rugged canyons and plateaus, of which 36,113 acres are public land and 923 acres are private. Between 80 and 120 wild horses roam the sagebrush parks and pinyon-juniper covered hills that dominate the area. Natural barriers, such as cliffs and canyons, are supplemented with fencing to define the area and control horse movement. The Little Book Cliffs Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (29,010 acres) makes up about two-thirds of the Range. The WSA is under interim management pending Congressional action.

Some of the Little Book Cliffs horses trace their ancestry back to Indian ponies, but the majority are descendants of horses who escaped from, or were turned loose by, ranchers and farmers. These wild horses are smaller than the average domestic horse. They are generally 13 to 15 hands high and weigh 800 to 900 pounds. There is quite a variation of color in this herd. The predominant colors are bay, black and sorrel. Gray, blue, palomino, buckskin, and brown have also been observed. The BLM has introduced horses from other wild herds to maintain a healthy and diverse Little Book Cliffs herd.

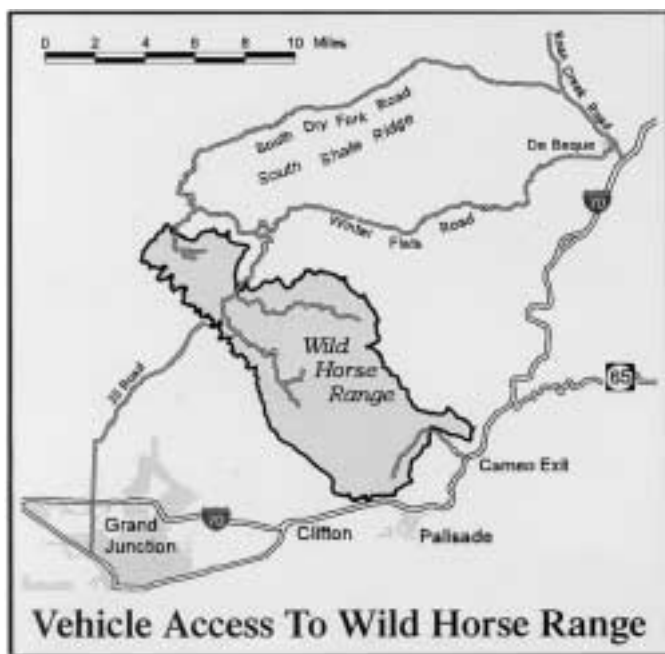
Within the range, some bands of horses migrate between summer and winter ranges. The small bands are made up either of a stud and his harem of mares, or bachelor bands of young stallions. Their winter range is primarily in Coal Canyon and the upper south-facing slopes of the Bookcliffs, where there is less snow and feed is more easily found. Their summer range is in the higher country. Use varies because of environmental factors and available water.

**For more information, please contact the BLM's Grand Junction Field Office at:**

**2815 H Road,  
Grand Junction,  
CO 81506,  
or call  
970-244-3000.**

**Or visit the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range web page at:**

**[www.co.blm.gov/gjra/lbc.htm](http://www.co.blm.gov/gjra/lbc.htm)**



## Friends of the Mustangs Receive Volunteer Award

On May 11, 2000, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) presented "Making a Difference" Volunteer Awards to nine deserving recipients. The group, *Friends of the Mustangs*, was one of the nine. For more than 17 years the *Friends* have been a major partner in the management of the BLM's Little Bookcliffs Wild Horse Range. Members of the group have donated thousands of hours of their time and have been key players in the success of the BLM Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) Program in Grand Junction, Colo. In 1999, the *Friends* volunteered 2,540 hours, representing a savings to BLM of over \$20,000 in labor. Members toil side by side with BLM employees in all phases of the WH&B Program, with an emphasis on management of the Little Bookcliffs. These volunteers inspect and repair springs, fences, and trail, and assist with range studies, horse monitoring, pre-adoption inspections, and adopted horse compliance. They also promote the WH&B Program in parades, fairs, conventions, schools, and horse shows. In short, the *Friends* have become part of the solution in managing wild horses on the public lands, and are setting an excellent example for other volunteer groups.





# Finding R&R in Penn. Continued from page1

etc.) may develop after being transported. Good quality care and ample rest stops can minimize the chance of this developing.

I arrived at the farm Monday afternoon and met with WH&B Specialist Art DiGrazia, Milwaukee Field Office. DiGrazia and the animals had been there since Sunday. The rest facility consists of a number of corrals with animals divided by species, age and/or sex. The animals had access to ample water and fresh grass to graze on. This was supplemented by fresh green alfalfa hay, and, initially, electrolytes which are added to the water. My job was to monitor and observe the animals for any signs of respiratory disease or other illness. It was a dream job come true—I was getting paid to do one of my favorite things, observe horses and burros!

Helene Brand, who owns the facility, became interested in the WH&B Program a number of years ago when she adopted her first mustang. She also has two adopted burros. When the former location was sold and the BLM desperately needed a new rest facility, Brand and her husband built this one and offered it to the BLM. The world needs more caring people like this!

I was amazed at how relaxed and calm the animals were. I had expected to see signs of stress, but for the most part the horses and especially the burros seemed right at home. Being with their "peer groups" helped. The studs or "bachelors" get along wonderfully together. Many people think you cannot put studs in the same pen. However, they are used to accepting one dominant boss whom they respect and the rest of them act like great friends. The same is true with the jacks. I enjoyed watching them groom each other and follow each other around the pens. The mares actually fight more among themselves. Nothing serious, but the dominant mare continually likes to reassert herself and boss the others around. Art

told me the studs are a lot easier to gentle than the mares. The studs are used to being bossed and will fairly quickly accept humans as dominant in place of the boss stallion.

The days flew by quickly. We would go out to the farm in the early morning and check the animals over. We would give out fresh hay and refill the water troughs. Most of my time was spent quietly observing the horses and burros. I would make sure all were eating and drinking. I would listen to their breathing, listen for any coughing and look for any signs of respiratory problems, such as a nasal discharge. I would look for signs that the animals were feeling comfortable, such as grooming rituals, rolling, grazing and relaxing. Fortunately, every animal remained healthy throughout their stay and benefited from the rest period.

I am a donkey fanatic and I fell in love with a fuzzy baby jack. DiGrazia showed me how to gentle the baby, who I named Ernie, and how to halter break him. By the end of my stay, I could touch him anywhere and he would follow me like a puppy. Although I was amazed at how quickly Ernie bonded to me, DiGrazia said that this was not unusual for a donkey.

On Thursday it was time for the horses and burros to load back up in the trailers for the final leg of their journey to

the adoption in Vermont. I inspected the trailers to see how the BLM managed to transport all these animals. The trailer is divided into several compartments to divide the horses and burros into compatible groups. Some people have asked "Why don't they individually trailer and tie them?" First of all, can you imagine how many trailers this would require? Second, and more importantly, these animals have never been haltered and tied in their life. If they were tied and trailered, most of them would arrive injured or dead! The horses and burros all seemed comfortable with their travel arrangements and secure with their companions surrounding them.

I followed the two trucks and trailers for about 200 miles until we parted ways. I checked the animals just before that point at a rest stop and all were calm. I said a special good-bye to Ernie. It broke my heart to have my newfound burro friend head off to Vermont, but someone out there was going to be very lucky to adopt a wonderful donkey. When we finally reached the point where DiGrazia headed North, I honked and waved good-bye as I continued East on the Turnpike. I bid the wild horses and burros, and especially the ones that had found a special place in my heart, a silent farewell and prayed that all would find wonderful new adoptive homes!



*A group of wild horses, fresh from the western range, enjoy a change of scenery in lovely, green Pennsylvania.*





# The Hoof—A Remarkable Piece of Anatomy

By Ron Zaidlicz, DVM  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal Plant and Health Inspection  
Service/Animal Care

When your wild horse or burro lived in the wild, Mother Nature took care of its hooves. Now it's your turn. Understanding the nature of wild horses and burros in the wild is necessary to understanding the hoof.

The hoof is truly a remarkable piece of an equine's anatomy. It has many functions such as support, cushioning, shock absorption, blood flow etc. The hoof is truly a dynamic structure and one of the most important parts of the horse, hence the old saying, "No feet, no legs, no horse." From an engineering standpoint, it is unbelievable. Most hooves have a surface area of 16-36 square inches, and when multiplied by four, have to support a thousand pound animal running, jumping etc., and sometimes the weight of tack and rider too. The hoof accomplishes this by increasing its surface area to distribute the force over the lamina (the tissues that attach the hoof wall to the bone). This is one reason why "laminitis" (inflammation of the lamina/founder) is so painful for horses.

Many factors affect how well a horse's foot functions, such as the use of the animal, its diet, level of water consumption, amount of exercise, frequency of trimming, etc. In nature horses are able to maintain their hooves in a healthy, balanced state. The horse in the wild usually lives in a semi-arid environment, eats large amounts of low quality feeds that pass quickly through its gut, and has unlimited exercise on often changing and harsh surfaces. This is almost exactly the opposite of how horses are kept domestically. Domestic horses are fed small amounts of high quality feeds, they consume more water (very necessary), and, for the most part are kept in pastures, paddocks or stalls. The horse's hoof in the wild is harder, drier and has thicker and more dense supporting structures. The foot is also kept in remarkable balance by natural wear and the environment.

Once the horse/burro begins life in a domestic environment the foot changes. It is not as hard or dry and is not naturally kept in wear.

The health of the horse's foot is dependent upon human intervention and often falls prey to human conceptions of what a foot should look like. I have heard many times about the awkward and unattractive gait of the adopted wild horse, and I can assure you that in the wild the horse's gait is nothing short of smooth and graceful. Most often, the horse with the unattractive gait is a result of poor foot care. In domestic environments, particularly in the West, the horse tends to develop a run under heel and, because of difficulties in handling, often a long toe or hoof wall in general. A long wall, long toe, run under heel, or any combination of these traits affect the horse's breakover and the horse must lift the foot higher to advance it. This would be analogous to humans trying to walk or run in clown shoes or swim fins—not very attractive.

The keys to good hoof care are regular trimming, a good diet and exercise. Feet should be trimmed to look as natural as possible and then be allowed to wear as necessary between trims. Each horse's conformation will determine how its feet wear. An individual horse may wear unevenly between trims. The next trim will bring the foot back to a natural baseline and the process starts over again. How the foot wears has everything to do with how the rest of the skeleton functions. When horsemen intervene with the hoof balance, they must realize that every change has a ripple affect on the rest of the horse.

One of the most important things an adopted horse needs to learn is that its feet must be handled to accommodate trimming and hoof care. This can be a dangerous proposition when horses are first adopted. Many techniques are available so that a horse becomes accustomed to its feet and legs being handled, but as I've said in previous articles the most important thing you

can have is a good relationship with the horse.

I've read articles on how to get your horse to stop kicking but none of the articles seems to mention getting your horse to a point where it does not feel a need to kick at you. Horses kick most often as a defensive action motivated by fear. The best strategy is to have a relationship with your horse such that your horse does not feel a need to defend itself or overreact.

*We will discuss more about hooves in the next issue.*

*Dr. Zaidlicz has offered to take questions from newsletter readers and provide a response in the newsletter. If you have a health-related question for Dr. Zaidlicz, please submit it to Mary Knapp (see mailing and email addresses on page 2).*

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*My recently adopted yearling is either the "poster-child" for BLM or we're just really lucky! I do not feel he would be doing as well if we just sat around waiting for him to gentle. Some of your articles indicate people are doing this and it puzzles me. My colt welcomes the challenge..... Recently, we took him along on a trail ride (ponying him) we went through a small river on his first 6 hour "ride" without a problem. I had to show his brand to prove he was "wild"!!! Can you tell I'm proud???*

**—Stuart Russell, Texas**



# MANRS Conference Comes to Kentucky Horse Park

By Shayne Banks, Jackson, Mississippi

In March, the 2000 Minorities in Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences (MANRS) Conference descended upon Lexington, Ky. One focus of the conference was to introduce minority students to possible job opportunities available to them through government agencies. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), a primary sponsor of the conference, decided that a side trip to the Kentucky Horse Park would be a great place to showcase the agency's Adopt-A-Horse or Burro Program. Several hundred conference attendees, from all over the United States, toured the park, visited the BLM's new Adopt-A-Horse or Burro exhibit, met the Mustang Troop, watched a riding demonstration, and visited the breeds barn. Eastern States Director Gayle Gordon, and Jackson Field Office Manager Bruce Dawson welcomed conference attendees at the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro exhibit. Attendees were also entertained by a brief presentation about the BLM, its programs, and job opportunities.



Former wild horse, Kiger Cougar, entertains students attending the Minorities in Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences Conference.

## Televised Adoption Truly a National Affair

By Maxine Shane, Reno, Nevada

Adopters from all across the country participated in the May 23, 2000, televised wild horse and burro adoption. A total of 81 animals were spoken for during the broadcast, and several other animals were chosen off-air afterwards by bidders who were not successful in obtaining their first choice.

The highest bid for a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) horse was \$950 for a two-year-old, red roan stud from the Snowstorm Mountains located in eastern Humboldt and western Elko Counties, Nev., not far from the Idaho border. The next highest bid was \$925 for a wild horse trained at the Riverton, Wyo., Honor camp. That animal was a gray, gelded horse from Cedar Breaks,

near Rawlins, Wyo. The stud went to a man from Aqua Dulce, Calif., while the saddle horse went to a woman in Pekin, Ill.

Here are the highest bids and location of the highest bidders in the other classes offered on the televised broadcast:

**Fillies:** One-year-old palomino from Clan Alpine Herd Management Area (HMA), \$375, Dayton, Nev.

**Colts:** One-year-old sorrel from Rocky Hills HMA, \$725, Fall River, Wis.

**Mares:** Two-year-old, gray from Snowstorm Mountains HMA, \$825, Lexington, Ohio.

**Geldings:** three animals brought \$300 each. Three-year-old black from Seven

Troughs HMA, to Walkerton, Ind.; Two-year-old sorrel from New Pass-Ravenswood HMA, to Potosi, Wis.; Four-year-old chestnut from New Pass-Ravenswood, to Kingston, Tenn.

**Burros:** Gray nine-month-old from McGee Mountains HMA, \$325, to Gainesville, Texas.

The BLM sponsored the televised wild horse and burro adoption featuring primarily wild horses removed from fire-damaged Nevada rangelands. Ten Nevada burros and eight wild horses trained by the inmates of a Riverton, Wyo., Honor Camp were also offered. Superior Livestock Auction Co. of Fort Worth, Texas, conducted the competitive bid, live broadcast. The BLM will now coordinate delivery of the animals through nine sites across the country.



# Tentative Adoption Schedule 2000

## Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Schedule

Date	Adoption Site	Contact Office	Telephone
<b>September</b>			
2-3	Branchville, N.J.	Milwaukee Field Office	800-293-1781
8	Rock Springs, Wyo.	Rock Springs District Office	307-352-0208
9	Salmon, Idaho	Idaho State Office	208-373-4000
9	Richardton, N.D.	North Dakota Field Office	701-225-9148
9	Laramie, Wyo.	Rock Springs District Office	307-352-0208
9-10	Cross Plains, Tenn.	Lebanon, Tenn. Project Office	800-376-6009
12	Pauls Valley, Okla.	Moore Field Office	800-237-3642
16	Riverton, Wyo.	Rock Springs District Office	307-352-0208
16-17	Harrington, Del.	Milwaukee Field Office	800-293-1781
23-24	Knoxville, Tenn.	Jackson Field Office	888-274-2133
29-30	Glen Rose, Texas	Moore Field Office	800-237-3642
30	Windom, Minn.	Milwaukee Field Office	800-293-1781
TBD	Meeker, Colo.	Meeker Resource Area	970-878-3601
TBD	Burns, Ore.	Burns District Office	541-573-4400
<b>October</b>			
10	Pauls Valley, Okla.	Moore Field Office	800-237-3642
15	Henderson, Texas	Moore Field Office	800-237-3642
<b>November</b>			
3-4	Odessa, Texas	Moore Field Office	800-237-3642

### Special Event:

*October 14 —6th Annual New Mexico Region Wild Horse & Burro Show, Henderson, Texas*

## Eastern States Receives Recognition for Innovation

The Bureau of Land Management's Eastern States' Wild Horse and Burro Internet Adoption Program was selected as an E-Gov 2000 Trail Blazer. The Internet Adoption Program was one of 24 programs chosen out of 93 applications, earning distinction as an exceptional solution that merits recognition within the E-Government community. E-Gov, the National Electronic Government Conference and Exposition, will present the awards at its July 11-12, 2000 Exposition in Washington, D.C.'s Convention Center.

"The E-Gov 2000 Government Solutions Center [GSC] offers an interactive glimpse into the most innovative

E-Government applications in use today," said Charles A. Lockard, president, I.T. Direct, producers of E-Gov 2000. "The installed applications showcased in the GSC are the models for effective service delivery, efficient processing, quick response time and state-of-the-art technical infrastructure."

Trail Blazers is a new program created by E-Gov that supplements its Pioneer Awards and represents a new tier of exceptional public-sector solutions that merit recognition in the E-Government community.

## Eastern States Website Makes Top 10 List of Fed. Sites

*Federal Computer Week* named the Bureau of Land Management's Eastern States Internet Adoption web site continues as one of the 10 best Federal web sites for its Internet Adoption website. To identify these sites, *Federal Computer Week* interviewed Internet experts in and out of government to seek opinions on which sites stood out. Eastern States' site was listed as number 3 of the 10 sites.



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Bureau of Land Management  
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**For more information about BLM's Adopt-a-Horse or Burro Program, or to request an application, call or write to the office serving the area where you wish to adopt:**

**Alaska 907-271-5555**

Alaska State Office  
222 West 7th Avenue #13  
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

**Arizona 623-580-5500**

Phoenix Field Office  
2015 W. Deer Valley Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85027-2099

Kingman Field Office  
520-692-4400

**California 916-978-4400**

California State Office  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Bakersfield Field Office  
805-391-6049

Ridgecrest Field Office  
800-951-8720

Eagle Lake Field Office  
530-254-6762

**Colorado 719-269-8500**

Royal Gorge Field Office  
3170 East Main Street  
Canon City, CO 81215-2200

**Eastern States**

Eastern States Office 800-370-3936  
7450 Boston Boulevard  
Springfield, VA 22153

Jackson Field Office 888-274-2133  
411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404  
Jackson, MS 39206  
(AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC,  
SC, TN & VA)

Lebanon, Tenn. Project Office  
800-376-6009

Milwaukee Field Office 800-293-1781  
310 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 450  
Milwaukee, WI 53203  
(CT, DE, DC, IL, IN, IN, IA, ME, MD,  
MA, MI, MN, MO, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA,  
RI, VT, WV & WI)

**Idaho 208-373-4000**

Idaho State Office  
1387 S Vinnell Way  
Boise, ID 83705-5389

**Montana & Dakotas 406-896-5013**

Billings Field Office  
P.O. Box 36800  
5001 Southgate Drive  
Billings, MT 59107-6800

**Nebraska 308-856-4498**

Elm Creek Wild Horse and Burro Facility  
5050 100th Road  
Elm Creek, NE 68836

**Nevada 775-475-2222**

National Wild Horse & Burro Center  
Palomino Valley  
P.O. Box 3270  
Sparks, NV 89432-3272

**New Mexico, Kansas, 800-237-3642**

**Oklahoma & Texas**

Moore Field Station  
221 North Service Road  
Moore, OK 73160-4946

**Oregon & Washington 541-573-4400**

Burns District Office  
HC 74-12533, Hwy 20 West  
Hines, OR 97738

**Utah 801-977-4300**

Salt Lake Field Office  
2370 South 2300 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84119

**Wyoming 307-352-0302**

Rock Springs District Office  
P.O. Box 1869  
280 Highway 191 North  
Rock Springs, WY 82901-1869